

Application No. 10/713,168  
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: ALLOWABLE CLAIM 3

The Examiner's allowance of claim 3 is respectfully acknowledged. Claim 3 has been amended to only make some minor grammatical improvements and to avoid the terms "means" and "characterized in that" so as to put claim 3 in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 3 remains in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to claim 3 are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of claim 3 either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

RE: REJECTED CLAIM 2

Claim 2 has been amended to recite an upper die mounting and demounting jig which is adapted to be removably positioned on the raised lower die lifting mechanism after the lower die is removed

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from the lower die lifting mechanism, such that the upper die mounting and demounting jig lies coaxially with the lower die lifting mechanism. See, for example, Figs. 3 and 4 and claim 3, as well as paragraphs [0020]-[0023] on pages 6 and 7 of the specification.

In addition, claim 2 has also been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements, as well as to avoid the terms "means" and "characterized in that" so as to put claim 2 in better U.S. form.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 2 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that USP 3,673,908 ("Smith") does not disclose, teach or suggest an upper die mounting and demounting jig as recited in amended claim 2, which allows the upper die set to be removed from the upper die holder without removing the upper die holder from the slide, and which allows a new upper die set to be loaded while keeping the new upper die set coaxial with the upper and lower die holders.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that amended claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Smith, taken singly or in combination with any of the other prior art references of record, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103, along with allowed claim 3.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Holtz  
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.  
220 Fifth Avenue - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10001-7708  
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900  
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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